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Proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 5
Peaceful uses of outer space

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Overall orientation

5.1 The overall purpose of the programme is the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development, in particular for the benefit of developing countries. The legislative authority and direction of the programme is drawn from relevant General Assembly resolutions and the decisions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was established in 1959 by the Assembly in its resolution 1472 A (XIV).

5.2 Recommendations of particular relevance to the work to be undertaken under this programme are contained in General Assembly resolutions 54/68, 59/2, 59/115, 61/110, 61/111, 62/101, 62/217 and 64/86.

5.3 The Committee's Plan of Action to further implement the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), contained in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development" and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/68, is contained in its related report (A/59/174). The Plan of Action, which was endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 59/2, constitutes a long-term strategy for enhancing mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels for developing and strengthening the use of space science and technology and their applications. In implementing that strategy, the Committee will provide a bridge between users and potential providers of space-based development and services and will take advantage of partnerships established between its secretariat, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations.

5.4 In its resolution 61/110, the General Assembly established the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) to provide universal access to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle. UN-SPIDER serves as a gateway to space-based information for disaster management support, a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities and a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries.

5.5 The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/111, noted with appreciation the establishment of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems. The International Committee promotes cooperation, as appropriate, on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services. By its resolution 64/86, the General Assembly welcomed the progress made by the International Committee and endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat should continue to serve as the executive secretariat of the International Committee and its Providers' Forum.

5.6 The actions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space aimed at strengthening the international legal regime governing outer space resulted in the adoption by the General Assembly of resolutions 59/115 and 62/101. Those resolutions, which aim at facilitating adherence to and the application of the provisions of the United Nations treaties on outer space, in particular the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, contain

recommendations on the application of the concept of the "launching State" and on enhancing the practice of States and intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects. The programme will further support the Committee's efforts by taking action to assist States in building or enhancing their capacity in space law.

5.7 In its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/62/20, paras. 117 and 118 and annex). The Guidelines, to be implemented on a voluntary basis, reflect the existing practices of a number of national and international organizations. By its resolution 64/86, the General Assembly welcomed the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space (A/AC.105/934), adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Safety Framework, developed in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, promotes the safe use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

5.8 The implementation of the programme will continue to strengthen efforts at the national, regional and global levels, including among entities of the United Nations system and international space-related entities, to maximize the benefits of the use of space science and technology and their applications.

Objective of the Organization: To further strengthen international cooperation among Member States and international entities in the conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology and their applications towards achieving internationally agreed sustainable development goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Greater understanding, acceptance and implementation by the international community of the legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities	(a) (i) Increased number of States and intergovernmental organizations having adhered to and/or taken action to implement the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space and related resolutions (ii) Increased number of countries receiving support to build or enhance their capacity in space law
(b) Strengthened capacities of countries in using space science and technology and their applications in areas related, in particular, to sustainable development	(b) (i) Increased number of countries receiving training in space science and technology and their applications (ii) Increased number of countries using space science, technology and their applications
(c) Increased coherence and synergy in the space-related work of entities of the United Nations system and international space-related entities in using space science and technology and their applications as tools to advance human development and increase overall capacity development	(c) Increased number of partnerships and/or synergies with United Nations system organizations, space-related entities and industry to promote awareness, strengthen capacity and use space science and technology and their applications

(d) Greater understanding, acceptance and commitment by countries and relevant international and regional organizations regarding ways of accessing and developing the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle	(d) (i) Increased number of countries requesting and receiving systematic and continuous technical advisory assistance for using space-based solutions in disaster management plans and policies and in the implementation of risk reduction activities (ii) Increased number of emergency response communities using space-based information
(e) Greater understanding and use of Global Navigation Satellite Systems applications in supporting sustainable development goals	(e) (i) Increased number of States and entities participating in improving access to space-based positioning, navigation and timing services (ii) Increased number of States using space-based positioning, navigation and timing services

Strategy

5.9 The Office for Outer Space Affairs is substantively responsible for the implementation of the programme. The overall strategy of the Office in meeting the objective of the programme includes:

(a) Promoting greater awareness of and strengthening the capacity to implement the international legal regime governing outer space activities, including the development of national space legislation, and promoting increased opportunities for education in space law;

(b) Strengthening capacity, in particular of the developing countries, in the use and applications of space science and technology for sustainable development and increasing awareness of decision makers of the benefits of space science and technology and their applications in addressing societal needs for sustainable development;

(c) Supporting the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

(d) Assisting in consensus-building among Governments and organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industries engaged in space-related activities;

(e) Strengthening existing cooperative relationships and forging new partnerships to maximize the effective use of resources and identify new mechanisms for making space capabilities more readily available to all users;

(f) Contributing to the objectives of United Nations and non-United Nations bodies in addressing matters relating to space law and policy and the use of space science and technology and their applications.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

1472 A (XIV)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
1721 B (XVI)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
2222 (XXI)	Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies
2345 (XXII)	Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space
2453 (XXIII)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
3235 (XXIX)	Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space
37/90	Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
47/68	Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space
54/68	Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
59/2	Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
59/115	Application of the concept of the "launching State"
61/110	United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
61/111	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
62/101	Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects
62/217	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
64/86	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space